

Director's Remarks, March 2010

Performance

Circulation was up slightly (63,881) over the same month last year (62,098), but almost all the gain was at Northgate, in online renewals, and in downloaded audiobooks. The Downtown facility continues to lose visitors and circulation, down 5% in circulation in comparison to last year. Patron registrations are up slightly system-wide.

City Finance Request & Book Budget (Board votes requested)

The City is trying to come up with a way of incorporating book orders into Oracle. Unfortunately, the large scale ordering of thousands of unique items is more complex than Oracle can handle. Either the City would have to hire an additional person to shoehorn our orders into their system or the Library would have hire a full-time person to do so. The compromise worked out is to set up ordering contracts with our two largest vendors. As these contracts are both over \$10,000, the City has required Library Board approval. **I need a motion to approve a \$71,000 contract with Baker & Taylor and a \$42,000 contract with Ingram.**

Also, we have now received the \$19,000 promised by the City and State funds for books. We need a motion to change our book budget to incorporate the new funds. **I need a motion to increase the book budget from \$391,316 to \$471,316.**

Library Budget (Board vote requested)

Eileen spoke with Louis Wright about the OPEB request and about the Library Board desire to submit it as a footnote to our regular operating budget. He told her to add a separate line item and to list the annual amount due (\$632,983) rather than the accumulated total (\$1.8 million). Though this does register as part of our operating budget, it is in compliance with the County's wishes. We ask the board to approve the total budget request (including OPEB) of \$7,669,274

Renovating Downtown

The Library is still collecting information from various sources on specific costs in different area and a great deal hinges on whether or not we include automation or the elevators in the total. The Kresge Foundation gives large grants (\$100,000 to \$2.5 million) to government entities like us for renovations. However, their portion would normally not exceed 8-10% of the private funds raised in support of a goal and they state that 20-50% of the other private funds should be in hand prior to any application. I have not yet spoken with anyone from Benwood or Lyndhurst. The Library Grants Committee will meet at 2:30 on Tuesday, March 30 in the Library Board Room.

Eastgate Library Action Committee

A representative from the Brainerd library group will provide an update on their activities at our April 20, 2010 board meeting. The recent DAR/SAR presentation at the office of Carol Berz included a frank discussion of Library issues such as parking, placement, the safety of any prospective archives in the flight path of airplanes, and locations for bookdrops and deliveries. Representatives from the DAR spoke of markers and other outdoor interpretive material that might be around any library site. A great deal hinges on negotiations for sites within the City and it will be impossible to determine possible costs until we know what opportunities any chosen site will offer. In the meantime, Jon Coddington from RiverCity asked the Auburn design students working on possible central libraries to look at a design for Brainerd as well.